



FCTC

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

**Conference of the Parties to the
WHO Framework Convention
on Tobacco Control**

Fifth session
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 12–17 November 2012

17 November 2012

DECISION

FCTC/COP5(8) Economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing (in relation to Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control)

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the report on global progress in implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), submitted by the Convention Secretariat to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties, which revealed significant advances in implementation of the Convention;

Reaffirming its decision FCTC/COP3(16) establishing a working group on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing in relation to Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC;

Recalling the report of the working group on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session (document FCTC/COP/5/10);

Noting that the WHO FCTC does not aim to penalize tobacco farmers, but aims to promote economically viable alternatives for tobacco workers, growers, and as the case may be, individual sellers;

Considering that the success of the WHO FCTC will result in reducing consumption, and bearing in mind that Article 17 of the WHO FCTC is aimed at increasing the number of livelihood options, with a view to assisting tobacco farmers and workers;

Taking into account that the farmers who live in a situation of poverty are those most vulnerable to the dependency cycle, which in some cases is linked to tobacco production;

Noting that up to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties there was still a need to further develop and share sound, economically viable alternatives presented in the form of policy options and recommendations with a view to offering support to tobacco growers and workers;

Remembering that developing economically viable options depends on identifying viable alternative crops, adequate policy requirements and appropriate mechanisms of implementation, according to potentialities, at the national and local level, as applicable; and

Reaffirming the need to safeguard the livelihoods of tobacco farmers and workers,

1. DECIDES:

(1) to request the working group established by decision FCTC/COP3(16) to continue to work within the new mandate and to conclude this work by its sixth session, delivering draft policy options and recommendations based on the findings produced by the implementation of a standardized methodological framework in the pilot projects and other relevant experiences;

(2) that the standardized methodological framework be centred, inter alia, on the following elements:

(i) participatory identification of agrarian systems of tobacco growers (natural resources; availability of means of production; socioeconomic determinants) and identification of alternative crops;

(ii) pilot projects and other relevant experiences to identify the specificities of a given tobacco growing area;

(iii) information exchange between cooperating parties;

(iv) lessons drawn (analysis and findings); and

(v) policy options based mainly on the following policy instruments: (a) technical assistance; (b) social and economic organization; (c) infrastructure and services; (d) rural credit; (e) price assurance; (f) crop and income insurance; (g) food acquisition programme;

(3) to develop policy options to address specific tobacco-linked environmental and health issues, especially in regard to green leaf sickness;

(4) to invite Parties, by 31 January 2013, to confirm to the Convention Secretariat their intention to continue as members of the working group or their intention to join the working group;

2. ALSO DECIDES:

(1) to request the Secretariat to support and make the necessary arrangements, including budgetary provisions, for the working group to complete its work, prioritizing the tasks mandated by subparagraphs (1)(a), (1)(b) and (1)(c) of decision FCTC/COP3(16);

(2) to request the Secretariat to facilitate the promotion of collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, primarily FAO, the World Bank and others, for the accomplishment of the tasks prioritized above;

(3) to request the Secretariat to promote cost-effective measures to allow the working group to accomplish these tasks, including virtual meetings as appropriate;

(4) to adopt the timeline set out below:

1	To standardize the methodological framework in a meeting with rural development specialists and delegates from the working group	First meeting in the first trimester of 2013
2	Application of the agreed-upon standardized methodological framework in the pilot project and other relevant experiences	Nine months
3	Data analysis and summary of conclusions	Two months
4	Draft of set of policy options and recommendations due to be presented to the Parties at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties	Two months, culminating in a broad meeting involving all the working group members

(Fourth plenary meeting, 17 November 2012)

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